5

Abstract

The present invention discloses a method and apparatus for preventing a layer-2 forwarding loop from being created within a

10   network element (NE). Specifically, the present invention is used to prevent a loop from being formed within a NE by multiple data stitches for the same data circuit. The loops are prevented from being formed within the NE by running spanning tree on all but one of the multiple data stitches for a data circuit. The

15   spanning tree blocks each of the data stitches on which it is run and thus only one data stitch remains and no loop is formed.